

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-31 are pending in the application. Claims 1, 3, 6, 9, 12, 15, 18, 21, 24, 26, 28, 30 are the only independent claims.

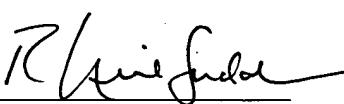
With the exception of a few formal matters, the Examiner has allowed all pending claims 1-31. The formal matters include the addition of periods to the ends of claims 5, 8, 11, 14, 17, 20, 23, 25, 27, 29 and 31. Applicant amended those claims herein so that all claims now end with periods. In addition, in claim 15, Applicant replaces the term “MC\_Not\_coded mode” with --MC\_Not\_Coded mode--, pursuant to a requirement made by the Examiner. Similarly, in claim 17, Applicant replaces “MC\_Not\_Coded\_ratio” with —MC\_Not\_Coded\_Ratio--.

For the foregoing reasons, all of the pending claims are deemed to be in condition for allowance. An early Notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that direct contact with applicant's attorney would advance the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number below.

Respectfully submitted,

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